IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Mary Louise Mandich
William David Reents Jr.

CASE 9-10

Serial No. 09/912129 **Group Art Unit** 1731

Filed July 24, 2001

Examiner J. Hoffmann

Title Process For Fabricating Optical Fiber

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Enclosed is an amendment in the above-identified application.

NO ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED

In the event of non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Deposit Account No. 12-2325** as required to correct the error.

Respectfully,

John McCabe

John F. McCabe, Attorney
Reg. No. 42,854
908-582-6866.

Date: Nov. 4, 2002

Docket Administrator (Room 3J-219)
Lucent Technologies Inc.
101 Crawfords Corner Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733-3030

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 11/4/02 **(Date of Deposit)**

Jean Rain 11/4/02
Date

PT 16 (10/01)

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Patent Application

Inventors: Mary L. Mandich
William D. Reents

Case No.: 9-10

Serial No.: 09/912,129

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Examiner: John M. Hoffman

Title: PROCESS FOR FABRICATING OPTICAL FIBER

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

REPLY AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.111, 1.112, 1.121

This reply is a request for reconsideration from the Office Action mailed July 3, 2002. The reply includes a petition and the appropriate fee for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136a for the period ending on Monday, Nov. 4, 2002.

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claim 34 as:

34. (twice amended) A process for preparing optical fiber, comprising the step of:

drawing fiber from a preform comprising a sol-gel silica tube, the tube formed by a process including the steps of, prior to sintering the tube:

providing a silica dispersion,

forming from the dispersion a gelled tube comprising refractory metal oxide particles,

heating the entire gelled tube to a temperature ranging from 400 to 800°C and,

while the gelled tube is at the temperature, treating the gelled tube with a gaseous mixture comprising one or more non-oxygenated sulfur halides, the treatment performed for a time period that provides sufficient diffusion of the one or more sulfur halides into the gelled tube such that at least one effect selected from the group consisting of reducing